

Curbside Recycling for Brookline

PAPER

- Newspaper (with inserts)
- Magazines/ catalogs, phone books
- Junk mail
- Office paper/brown bags
- No soiled paper or plastic bags
- No pizza boxes
- paperboard (e.g. cereal boxes)
- milk cartons, oj cartons etc
- Place in paper bag next to bin or in a separate blue bin

CONTAINERS

- Glass bottles/jars-Remove collars, neck rings, and corks. Labels may stay on. No broken or other glass such as light bulbs, window or auto glass, dishes, glasses, Pyrex.
- Aluminum and steel/tin food and beverage cans, empty aerosol cans and aluminum foil-Labels may stay on. No cans containing hazardous material. May be flatten.
- Plastic bottles and jars marked 1 thru 7 See Flyer
- Remove lids & neck rings. No plastic bags.

COMPUTER MONITORS AND TELEVISIONS

The DPW now collects curbside for residents on municipal trash service computer monitors and televisions. Please schedule pickup one week in advance by calling the DPW at 730-2156. There will be no pickups during holiday weeks.

PLASTIC BAG RECYCLING

The following list of stores will take plastic bags and other recycled material. Whole Foods, Roche Bros, Star Markets and Osco drugs. Please visit www.earth911.com for more info.

BATTERY RECYCLING

The Town of Brookline has a Nickel Cadmium battery recycling drop-off site at the DPW office at Town Hall. Alkaline batteries (those used in most household appliances) made after 1994 are no longer made with mercury and may be disposed of in regular trash.

CELL PHONE RECYCLING

For the nearest location to recycle your old cell phones please call 1 800 8 battery and follow the instructions.

Where Does My Recycling Go?

Do you wonder where your recycling goes once your blue bin is emptied at the curb?
Do you wonder what your recycling is made into?

The Town has a contract with Whitney Trucking to collect recycling from over 13,255 households and about 60 businesses in Brookline each week. Whitney sends out three recycling trucks. The recycling trucks are divided into two different compartments: one for commingles (glass, plastic and metal containers) and one for mixed paper and cardboard. When the truck is full, Whitney brings the material to FCR Recycling of New England, a processing plant in Charlestown where the material gets weighed, sorted and baled. About 150 recycling trucks dump material at the facility daily from about 50 communities in the Boston area.

At FCR, the processing of recyclables is assisted by advanced sorting technology. In addition, recycling processing is labor intensive. This reinforces the importance of properly preparing your recycling!

None of the recyclable containers are washed at the processing facility; so dirty recyclables are considered trash. If a recycling truck is mixed or contains trash, the entire load can be rejected leading to additional processing costs and more material sent to landfill or incinerators. This is why it is important that you rinse out jars, cans and tubs so that the materials are free from food. In addition, it is equally important to keep your papers separate from your containers since the truck has separate compartments and they are going to different sorting areas in the recycling processing facility.

About 500 tons of paper is processed each day. While the paper and cardboard move along the conveyor belt, electronic eyes and then people separate the material into difference "grades" and remove contaminants. For example, pizza boxes are considered a contaminant because of the grease and food residue.

On another conveyor, as the commingled containers flow along, metals are yanked out from overhead magnets and propelled into a holding area. Broken glass and bottle caps shake out and fall onto a lower conveyor for further processing.

The remaining material: plastics, aluminum and milk cartons are blown around by air jets strategically placed to push and draw light materials over to a manual sorting conveyor. Glass containers travel onto another conveyor where the clear containers are separated from the colored glass.

Once everything is thoroughly sorted, the material is baled separately. Huge bales of plastics, metals, paper and cardboard are stacked up in the facility and await loading into export containers, trailers and rail cars for direct shipment to companies that use the material to make new products.

Each month, FCR provides the town a monthly market report. Although demand for the material and the end markets fluctuate, the end destinations are relatively constant. In this table, you can see who picks up your recycling, what company processes it, its general end destination and what products are made from the material you have recycled.